Claims

[c1] 1.A remote management appliance system for reconfiguring characteristics of an industrial personal computer, of the type having a host CPU therein, the apparatus comprising:
an expansion card disposed in said industrial personal computer and coupled to said host CPU;
the expansion card having an expansion card microprocessor therein;
translation software disposed in said industrial personal computer and coupled to and executed by at least one of said host CPU and said expansion card microprocessor;
said translation software, when executed, configured to convert an incoming SMTP formatted reconfiguration message into a second format which is capable of causing a reconfiguration of a parameter which is monitored at least in part in reliance upon operation of said expansion card microprocessor.

[c2] 2.A system of claim 1 wherein said expansion card generates a confirming e-mail message at least indirectly in response to receipt of said incoming SMTP formatted reconfiguration message.

[c3] 3.A system of claim 1 wherein said translation software is executed on said expansion card microprocessor.

[c4] 4.A system of claim 3 wherein said parameter is an environmental parameter of said industrial personal computer.

[c5] 5.A system of claim 3 wherein said parameter is a parameter of an application software program running on said host CPU.

[c6] 6.A system of claim 3 wherein said parameter is an operational parameter of said expansion card.

[c7] 7.A system of claim 3 further comprising:
a monitoring computer coupled to a network connecting with said industrial personal computer, and at least indirectly with said expansion card;
an SMTP message-generating wizard software program, disposed on and executed by said monitoring computer, said wizard software program being

configured to created an SMTP message representative of instructions to change said parameter.

[c8] 8.A system of claim 6 further comprising:
a monitoring computer coupled to a network connecting with said industrial personal computer, and at least indirectly with said expansion card;
an SMTP message-generating wizard software program, disposed on and executed by said monitoring computer, said wizard software program being configured to create an SMTP message representative of instructions to change said parameter.

[c9] 9.A system of claim 8 further comprising:
a plurality of industrial computers which are remotely located with respect to said monitoring computer; and,
each of said plurality of industrial computers includes a monitor expansion card therein which is configured to translate said SMTP message into an instruction which reconfigures a parameter of said monitor expansion card.

[c10] 10.A system of claim 9 wherein said monitor expansion card is an environmental monitor.

[c11] 11.A system of claim 9 wherein said monitor expansion card is an application software monitor.

[c12] 12.A method of reconfiguring a parameter in an expansion card management appliance which is remotely located with respect to a first location;
using, at said first location, a wizard software program to generate an SMTP message which is representative of an instruction to change a parameter of a management appliance which is located at a second location which is remotely located from said first location;
transmitting said SMTP message to said management appliance;
translating said SMTP message, at said second location, into a management appliance reconfiguration instruction; and,
reconfiguring a monitoring parameter of said management appliance in response to receipt of said management appliance reconfiguration instruction.

[c13] 13.A method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:
addressing, at said first location, said SMTP message to a plurality of e-mail addresses corresponding to a plurality of management appliances which are remotely located from said first location; and,
transmitting said message to said plurality of e-mail addresses.

[c14] 14.A method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of:
generating a confirmation return e-mail message after receipt of said SMTP message.

[c15] 15.A system for monitoring a plurality of computers comprising:
a management appliance located at a first location, which is configured to monitor a personal computer;
said management appliance being configured to receive an SMTP message; and,
means for translating said SMTP message into an instruction for reconfiguring a monitoring parameter of said management appliance.

[c16] 16.A system of claim 15 wherein said management appliance is an expansion card disposed in and coupled, via an internal bus, to said personal computer.

[c17] 17.A system of claim 16 wherein said SMTP message is an e-mail message addressed to a plurality of e-mail addresses.

[c18] 18.A system of claim 17 wherein said management appliance receives said SMTP via an out-of-band connection with respect to said personal computer.

[c19] 19.A system of claim 18 wherein said management appliance receives power only through said internal bus.

[c20] 20.A system comprising:
a first computer, at a first location, which is configured to send and receive SMTP e-mail messages over an internet connection;
a first wizard program, disposed on said first computer, said first wizard program configured to generate an SMTP broadcast message which is representative of a management appliance reconfiguration signal and further for addressing said SMTP broadcast message to a plurality of e-mail addresses;

where each of said plurality of e-mail addresses is uniquely associated with a different one of a plurality of management appliances;

e-mail transmitting means for transmitting said SMTP broadcast message over said internet connection; and,

each of said plurality of management appliances comprising:

an expansion card, configured to mate along one side with an internal PC bus when said internal PC bus is conforming to a first predetermined bus standard and is alternately configured to mate along an opposite side with said internal PC bus when said internal PC bus is conforming to a second predetermined bus standard;

a communication port which is out of band with respect to a primary communication port for a host computer;

said expansion card adapted to receive only power through said internal PC bus;

means for monitoring environmental and application software events occurring in said host computer, where said means for monitoring has a plurality of reconfigurable monitored parameters; and,

means for translating said SMTP broadcast message into reconfiguration instructions which are configured to change said plurality of reconfigurable monitored parameters; and,

means for generating and transmitting a confirmation e-mail, addressed to an e-mail address for said first computer, after receipt of said SMTP broadcast message via said out-of-band communication port.